

# Teachers and students in prison

1977  
Prisoners of  
Conscience Year

amnesty  
international



To regimes intent on retaining power against the will of the majority, and to governments who enforce a rigid ideological discipline on their subjects, the school and the university are objects of close scrutiny and control.

The young people who learn and teach in the schools, and the intelligent and questioning members of university faculty and student bodies are precisely those elements in society most likely to detect the basic injustices of an oppressive regime and attack them in words and actions.

It is therefore not surprising that students, teachers, and academics figure prominently amongst those whom AI has, over the years, tried to defend against arbitrary imprisonment, torture, and sometimes death.

In Africa, students have been prominent in the protest movement against the South African government's policy of *apartheid*, and teachers and members

of both the black students organisation SASO (South African Students Organisation) and the National Union of South African Students have been house-arrested or imprisoned for their political activities and beliefs. Ugandan students were shot and tortured by the army and security forces of President Idi Amin in the mid-Summer of 1976. May Day 1977 saw the slaughter of scores of Ethiopian students protesting against the military government which has ruled their country since 1974. In Morocco and Tunisia, student leaders have been among the political activists whose trials AI observers have attended during the past decade. In Morocco a 30 year-old teacher, Abdellatif Zeroual, is believed to have been tortured to death after his arrest in November 1974.

Both Eastern and Western European states hold prisoners of conscience who are students, teachers, or academics.

When dictatorships ruled Spain, Portugal,

**Pandelani Nefolovhodwe, South Africa**  
30 years old, Mr. Pandelani Nefolovhodwe was a final year student at the University of the North (Turloop) and the current President of the black South African Students' Organization (SASO) at the time of his arrest in October 1974.

Mr Nefolovhodwe was one of more than 50 members of the "black consciousness" movement detained in the last months of 1974 following attempts by SASO and another organisation, the Black People's Convention (BPC), to organize a series of rallies in support of FRELIMO, the Mozambique liberation movement. These rallies were banned by the government in advance of the first rally, scheduled for 25 September, 1974.

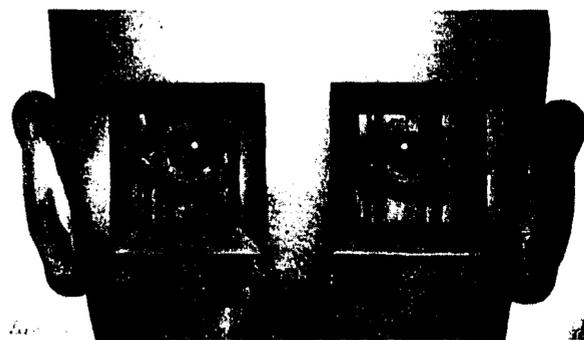
Some two weeks later, on 11 October, Pandelani Nefolovhodwe was arrested and detained without charge under Section 6 of the Terrorism Act. He was then held incommunicado for more than

3 months until January 1976 when he and other SASO and BPC leaders were charged with various offences under the Terrorism Act. In effect, it was alleged that by promoting the concept of "black consciousness", the SASO and BPC leaders had aimed to bring about a racial polarization in South Africa which would lead, ultimately, to violent confrontation between the black majority and white minority populations. A further defendant was added in February but he and 3 others were subsequently discharged and acquitted.

After a trial by the Pretoria Supreme Court lasting almost two years Pandelani Nefolovhodwe and the 8 other remaining defendants were each convicted and jailed for terms of 5 or 6 years. They are imprisoned on Robben Island South Africa's top security prison for black political prisoners.

In February 1977, they were among a group of prisoners

reportedly assaulted by prison warders using guard dogs. They are now believed to be kept in isolation from other political prisoners held on Robben Island.



Drawing © J. Lagarrigue, Paris

and Greece, AI groups adopted scores of prisoners in these categories. Today, many of AI's adopted prisoners in Western Europe serving sentences for conscientious objection are students. In Eastern Europe, prominent academics such as the Czech historian Dr. Jan TESAR, who was released in October 1976 after 5 years imprisonment, and East German physicist Professor Robert

Havemann, who was arrested in November 1976 and charged with "endangering order and security" have had their cases taken up by AI, as have academics and teachers in the USSR.

In the Americas, AI took up the cases of students from the USA who were imprisoned as a result of their refusal to be inducted into the armed forces during the war in Vietnam. 112 students and 22



**Oleksander Sergiyenko, USSR**

In January 1972 the teacher Oleksander Sergiyenko was among a large number of Ukrainian cultural figures who were arrested for manifesting nationalist views. Mr. Sergiyenko, (born 1932) who taught art and technical drawing in a secondary school in Kiev, had been active in public defence of other Ukrainian prisoners of conscience. On 7 December 1970 he gave a short speech at the funeral of Alla Horskva, a widely admired

Ukrainian artist with dissenting nationalist views who had died under mysterious circumstances. The following day his school director asked him to resign; he refused and was dismissed soon afterwards. He then worked in a Kiev museum until he was arrested in January 1972.

At his closed trial in Kiev in June 1972, Mr Sergiyenko was convicted of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" and sentenced to 7 years in strict regime corrective labour colony and 3 years exile. The main charge against him was complicity in the creation of the "anti-Soviet" book *Internationalism or Russification?* by Ivan Dzyuba, part of which Mr Sergiyenko had annotated for his own use. He was also charged with criticising the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia and making statements concerning the constitutional right of the Ukraine to self determination.

Mr Sergiyenko was sent to serve his sentence in a colony in Perm region, in the Russian republic. At the end of 1973, as a punishment for violating the regime of the corrective labour colony, he was transferred to Valdimir prison for 3 years. Having served out this additional punishment he is now imprisoned again in a colony in Perm region.

Mr Sergiyenko's mother has appealed several times on his behalf. She is particularly concerned by his chronic tuberculosis, which is likely to be aggravated in his conditions of imprisonment.

Oleksander Sergiyenko was adopted as a prisoner of conscience by AI in August 1972.

teachers were among the illustrative cases of persons who had "disappeared" after arrest by security forces in Chile since the September 1973 coup which AI publicized in a special dossier in March 1977. Argentinian students and academics have been the victims of a wave of repression since the coup of March 1976, aimed at purging the universities and academic institutions of "leftwing elements". There, as in Chile, students feature prominently among those on whose behalf AI launches urgent actions each week after reports of their abduction by security forces.

Asia also has its share of student and teacher prisoners. Indonesia, a country which probably holds the largest number of political prisoners in the world (AI estimates range up to 100,000) has detained individuals in this category for over 10 years without trial. In South Korea, 14 Roman Catholic students were given heavy prison sentences in 1975 in

connection with peaceful demonstrations against the policies of the government. Some teachers are amongst those reported killed in Democratic Kampuchea since the end of the war in April 1975.

In the Middle East students and teachers have been arrested in countries as diverse as Libya and Israel occupied territories for demonstrations against the government. In Libya two students were sentenced to death and executed in April 1977 as a result of their part in anti-government demonstrations. In Iraq and Iran, lecturers and their students have suffered imprisonment and torture for participating in activities viewed as "subversive".

In all these cases AI has sought to help the victims, through its techniques of adoption, missions, publicity, campaigns, and relief. In this work it needs the support of students, teachers, and academics who feel as obligation to assist their imprisoned counterparts throughout the world.



Miss Park Chin Sun, South Korea Miss Park was born in 1954, and at the time of her arrest in June 1975, was a third-year student at Ewha Women's University in Seoul.

On 22 May 1975, students at Seoul National University held a meeting in memory of Kim Sang Chin, a student who had killed himself the previous month in protest against the repressive policies of the South Korean government. Student demonstrations of this nature had been expressly forbidden by Emergency Regulation Number 9, which had been introduced a few days before the 22 May meeting. This emergency regulation was the latest in a series of special presidential decrees enacted by President Park to ban all criticism of his administration.

Shortly after the 22 May demonstration, a group of Roman Catholic students made plans to organize nation-wide student demonstrations against the

government. However, the authorities heard of the plans, and early in June 22 of the students were arrested. They were charged with violating Emergency Regulation Number 9. In December 1975 18 of the students were found guilty and were given heavy sentences ranging from 2 to 10 year imprisonment. Miss Park received a 3 year sentence, and is presently serving it at Suwon Prison. She is adopted by Amnesty International.

#### What you or your school/ university can do to support Prisoner of Conscience Year.

- 1 Become an active member of Amnesty International and encourage your colleagues to do the same.
- 2 Publicise Amnesty concerns in your school or university media.
- 3 Ensure your library has a subscription to Amnesty publications.
- 4 Co-operate in mass actions such as signing and circulating the petition on the back of this coupon.
- 5 Encourage 'Human Rights' education courses. Lobby at a local level to encourage a national programme of such courses.
- 6 Explore the possibility of your school/university offering places to academics abroad who need such a post to enable them to leave prison.
- 7 Raise funds for AI's work and for the relief of Prisoners of Conscience.
- 8 Encourage awareness of the plight of imprisoned colleagues.

- I/We want to join Amnesty International and enclose £ membership fee

- Send the following number of copies of the Petition
- |   |                          |                          |                          |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| £ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|   | 100                      | 500                      | 1000                     |                          |

- Send copies of this brochure for distribution by/in my organisation

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
100	500	1000	

- I/We enclose £ as a donation. Funds are urgently needed.

- Put me/us on the mailing list for Amnesty International's Newsletter during Prisoner of Conscience Year

£6

Name, address  
and  
organization (if any)

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# Petition

## for the release of Prisoners of Conscience

During 1977 Prisoners of Conscience Year, Amnesty International supporters will be circulating the petition below. We welcome your help in obtaining signatures from colleagues and friends.

"We, the undersigned,

*OUTRAGED* that in many parts of the world, men and women who have neither used nor advocated violence suffer imprisonment solely because of their political or religious beliefs, their race colour, or language;

this, despite the many humane and noble declarations of the assembled nations of the world, beginning with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights three decades ago,

Please complete in **BLOCK CAPITALS**, with your signature, and return with coupon on back to: your national section. If you do not belong to a

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*URGE the General Assembly of the United Nations*

to take swift and concrete steps to ensure strict observance in all countries of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

*and urge each and every government in the world*

to act for the immediate release of all prisoners of conscience."

national section please return to: Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

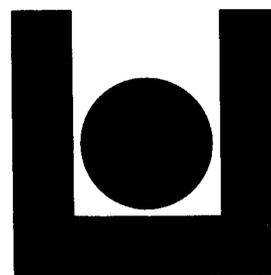
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The Year 1977 has been declared Prisoners of Conscience Year. In a coordinated campaign, the groups and members of Amnesty International will seek to intensify public awareness and concern about violations of human rights wherever they occur and to bring greater support to prisoners of conscience throughout the world. Special contributions are being made by outstanding figures in the world of art, film, music, literature and design. Signatures will be collected in all countries for a petition urging: 1) the General Assembly of the United Nations "to take swift and concrete steps to ensure strict observance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," and 2) urging all governments "to act for the immediate

release of all prisoners of conscience."

Funds raised during this special year will be administered under the authority of the International Executive Committee of Amnesty International and will be devoted to the strengthening of the national programs and structures of the Amnesty International movement and for capital expenditure within the International Secreta-

During Prisoner of Conscience Year Amnesty International will be producing lists of prisoners who are adoption or investigation cases in the following categories. These lists do not include all prisoners of conscience in the relevant category.

- Trade Unionists
- Journalists
- Parliamentarians
- Medical Personnel

And brochures on the following topics:

- Journalists/Writers
- Parliamentarians
- Medical Profession
- Lawyers
- Trade Unionists
- Women
- Teachers and Schools

# amnesty international

... is a worldwide human rights movement which is independent of any government, political faction, ideology or religious creed. It works for the release of men and women imprisoned anywhere for their beliefs, colour, ethnic origin or religion, provided they have neither used nor advocated violence. These are termed "prisoners of conscience".

... opposes torture and capital punishment in all cases and without reservation. It advocates fair and speedy trials for all political prisoners.

... seeks observance throughout the world of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

... has consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC), UNESCO and the Council of Europe, has cooperative relations with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States and has observer status with the Organization of African Unity (Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees).

... is financed by its members throughout the world, by individual subscription and by donations.